1. I would have preferred Moultrie as a teacher because she was very involved in the community she taught in. Moultrie also was a Language Arts teacher that did not cover the same classics every year, but also used current events, and works by Black authors to get the students thinking and internalizing their beliefs on what is happening around them. Moultrie also believes her teaching is a “calling” or a ministry, which shows her passion for her work. Moultrie also believed in integrating subjects such as having a mini “interesting but true” History lesson before the class reading assignment of The Scarlett Letter. Lastly Moultrie holds her students to high standards with organization such as the grading of the notebooks on their neatness, and organization is a skill needed to compete in the real world.
2. As a mentor, I would choose Moultrie again. Since Moultrie lives in the same community as her students she would be seen outside of school, and students have a better chance of seeing her as a real person, hence making trusting her or confiding in her easier. I think her passion for teaching would also trickle into student’s feeling like she really cared about them succeeding not only in school, but in the real world as well, hence them feeling comfortable asking for her advice on school and non-school related topics.
3. The teacher’s beliefs that most aligned with my beliefs and practices regarding multicultural education were Moultrie again! The fact that Moultrie sees Standard English as an important tool for the real world, and actually EXPLAINS to the students why this skill is so important, and that using Standard English does not mean you have to abandon the way to you talk with family and friends, but that there needs to be a difference in professional situations, shows that she is trying to prepare her students to be successful in situations such as a job interview or college application. Moultrie also teaches classic literature in her class but peppers the classic literary works with Black authors and current literature to give the students a more multicultural idea of what good writing looks like.
4. The only concerns I have with the teachers are when Nancy said that she knew she was “hard” on her students. I realize that she did explain her reasoning or drive behind being hard on her students, but to me in many cases a student’s only person in their lives telling them they are “proud of them, or doing a good job,” are their teachers. I believe it is part of our job to show our liking and pride in our students to foster their learning and self-confidence as a person in this harsh real world. I also was concerned over Little’s belief that classics were on college entrance exams. I don’t remember having to remember quotations from classics texts on my ACT exam but maybe that was because it was a long time ago. I do not see the correlation between knowing the classics and getting into a college based on that knowledge anymore in current society. If I am correct about this then I wouldn’t lie to my students either, telling they should know this old and boring and non-relatable stuff to get into college, because this setting students up for believing college is not a multicultural place, when really it is.